responsible for the miserable economic condition of Uttar Pradesh which is burdened with the loan amount of 58,350 crore rupees; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) According to the news items referred to in part (a) of the question, UP Government allegedly, has referred to Central policies in the memorandum submitted by them to the Eleventh Finance Commission.

The Finance Commission is appointed by the President of India under Article 280 of the Constitution to make recommendations for distribution of resources between the Centre and the States within its term of reference. Centre as well as State Governments are free to submit their views before the Finance Commission. Government of India does not consider it appropriate to comment on the submission made by any State Government before the Finance Commission.

Collection of Corporate Tax

1299. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been drop in the collection of corporate taxes in the first quarter of this financial year as compared to the corresponding period in the previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the tax collection from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the first quarter of this financial year, the refund issued are more where as payment of 1st instalment of advance tax made by the corporate assessees is less in comparision to the corresponding period of last year.

(c) Intensive monitoring of advance tax collection as well as tax deducted at source and payment of regular demands has been

undertaken by the Senior Officers in the field. Moreover, collection out of arrear demand in big dossier cases has also been given a focussed attention.

Confiscation of Weapons by Customs

1300. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that customs has confiscated a large number of weapons, very recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that, some confiscated weapons are missing;

(c) whether it is a regular practice; and

(d) the details of confiscated and missing weapons during the last three years, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) (a) There is no report of any recent confiscation of large number of weapons by Customs. However, in November, 1999, an import consignment of weapons comprising 43 Pistols/Revolvers, 20 Tackling Knives & 7 Laser Guided sights has been seized by Customs at Sahar Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai. The case is under investigation.

(b) The question does not arise as no weapons have been confiscated.

(c) Sporadic seizures (and their subsequent confiscation) of weapons unathorisedly imported/attempted to be smuggled are effected by Customs deployed at various entry points into the country.